



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

2004 Coming Events...

Kids Fishing Fair

May 15 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Prairie Days

September 11 Shaw Nature Reserve

National Hunting & Fishing Day

September 25

Call (636) 441-4554 for more information on these events.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter in the mail,
please call (636) 441-4554.*

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

May 2004

Volume 04, Number 05



Kids' Fishing Fair

Time To Do Some Reel Fishin'!

By Nick Davis, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Kids and fishing! They go together like bread and butter (or fish and chips). We all remember our first fishing trip, and love to pass that experience on to others. Keep the angling tradition alive by taking your children fishing – an experience that they, like you, will never forget.

Remember the basics: Have fun. Keep realistic expectations. Children can have short attention spans and may want to move on to something else after a very short time. You can't expect children to have the same level of enthusiasm you do the first few trips; don't make fishing a chore for them. Above all, have patience; youngsters may get dirty or even a little wet. Consider fishing with the kids an investment with payoffs far into the future. If you do this right, payback time will come years later when they help you launch your old boat and take *you* fishing!

The Missouri Department of Conservation's annual Kids Fishing Fair teaches kids an important lifelong skill and provides the whole family an unforgettable time outdoors. This year's event will be May 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area, St. Charles.

Open to all kids ages 15 and under, the fair will have information stations on topics such as fishing techniques, tackle craft, ethics and aquatic ecology and management. And, of course, there'll be plenty of time to wet a line at Busch CA lakes 1, 2 or 15! Bring your own fishing equipment and bait (worms work best). A limited supply of loaner poles will be available on a first come, first served basis. Concessions also will be available.

No reservations are needed for this family-friendly event. For more information, call (636) 441-4554.




Fishing Fair Stations

Beginning Fishing Instructions
Boating Safety
Casting Range
Catch & Release Fishing
Fish Filletting & Cooking
Fish ID Maze
Fly Tying & Fishing
Knot Tying & Baiting Hooks
Live Turtles, Frogs & Snakes!
Pan Fishing Instructions



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304


For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/



**Scout Discovery Table:
Careers / Area Information**

*All Month Self-Guided Exhibit
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.*

(Scouts) Visit our self-guided display and check out the many opportunities in the field of conservation. While you are here, pick up information on the conservation areas in your own neighborhood. **Bears:** Sharing Your World with Wildlife Achievement # 5c, d; **Juniors:** Your Outdoor Surroundings #7. All are welcome. (No reservations necessary.)



8

Lewis Hike

Saturday8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(Adults) Join us for a refreshing spring hike through the forests at Weldon Spring Conservation Area. We will be looking for wildflowers and songbirds. This is a good time to see and hear both migrating and resident songbirds. The length of the hike is 8.3 miles. (Reservations begin April 23.)

10

Backyard Detectives
Critters up Close

Monday10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 5-9) Something exciting is going on right under your nose! Right in Busch’s backyard, tiny critters are crawling, flying, prowling, eating and being eaten. Come and discover this fascinating mini world! (Reservations begin April 26.)

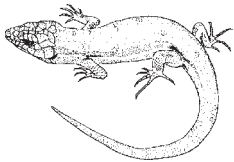


13

Snakes and Lizards –
Yucky or Cool?

Thursday9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) How many “poisonous” snakes are there in Missouri? Can a lizard grow a new tail? Come find out the answers to those questions while learning about the snakes and lizards that live in Missouri. You will be able to observe live snakes and even touch some. Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can observe any snakes or lizards in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin April 28.)



15

Kids Fishing Fair

Saturday9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Ages 15 & under) Let us help you teach your kids to fish! Visit the booths to learn the ins and outs of fishing and then give them the chance to catch a fish. Bring your own fishing equipment and bait. A limited number of loaner poles will be available. (No reservations necessary.)

22

Wildflower Walk

Saturday9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(All Ages) Shake off the cobwebs and join us on this easy saunter within the Busch Conservation Area to see colorful prairie flora. We’ll hike at an easy pace for plenty of botanizing to view early bloomers along the trails and share some “flower folklore.” (Reservations begin May 6.)

Busch Shooting Range &
Training Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441-4554

Range Hours: October 1 – April 30, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday – Tuesday
Closed Wednesdays and Thursdays, state holidays and special events.

11

Firearm Stock Refinishing Basics

Tuesday6 p.m.

(All Ages) Come and listen to Range Volunteer Paul DeMoss cover the basics and discuss the how to’s. Seating is limited and youths under 16 must attend with an adult. (Reservations end May 7.)

12&13

Missouri Bowhunter Education

Wednesday & Thursday6 p.m.

(Ages 11 & up) The Missouri Bowhunter Education Certification Course meets the requirements in states that mandate Bowhunter Education Certification to hunt. Youths ages 11-13 must have adult attend with them; ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate; ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. (Reservations end May 10.)

18

Predator Calling Basics

Tuesday6 p.m.

(All Ages) Come listen and spend time with our Outdoor Skills staff and specialists on this interesting subject. (Reservations end May 14.)

1

Intermediate Skeet Shooting

Saturday8 a.m.

29

Intermediate Trap Shooting

Saturday8 a.m.

These courses are for shotgun shooters who are experienced in skeet and trap shooting or have previously taken the MDC Shotgun Basics and Sport Shooting course. This course will not cover basic shotgun or beginning techniques. Individuals who staff deem inexperienced or lacking sufficient knowledge will be released from the course. Experienced youths under 16 must attend with an adult.

Jay Henges Shooting Range &
Training Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049
(636) 938-9548 for reservations call (636) 441-4554

Range Hours: September 1 – April 30, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday
Closed Mondays and Tuesdays, state holidays and special events.

5&8

Adult Basic Handgun

Wednesday 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. & Saturday 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

(Ages 18 & up) This two-day course covers the attitude, skill and knowledge necessary for owning and operating a handgun safely. Registrants ages 18-20 must attend with an adult.

12&15

Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals

Wednesday 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 18 & up) This two-day course is an introduction to shotgun shooting. You may bring your own shotgun, ammunition and eye and ear protection or this equipment will be provided.

19&22

Women’s Basic Handgun Course

Wednesday 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. & Saturday 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

(Adults) This two-day course is for women 21 years of age or older who want to learn about handguns in general.

21&22

Missouri Bowhunter Education

Friday 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. & Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(Ages 11 & up) This course meets the requirements for those states that require mandatory Bowhunter Education Certification. Students 11 to 13 must provide proof of age. Students 15 and under must attend with an adult.

26

Introduction to Sporting Clays

Wednesday6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Sporting clays is one of the most popular types of recreational shooting in the country. You may bring your own shotgun, ammunition and eye and ear protection or this equipment will be provided.

Rockwoods Reservation

May 2004 Page 6

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

8 Trees in Spring

Saturday 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Families) The natural world explodes this time of the year — with new buds on the trees, shy flowers peeking out of bright green wrappers, flocks of birds returning to their breeding grounds. Come explore the diversity of the trees in the forest. Discover the ways we identify trees by their shape, bark, buds and seeds. You will never look at a tree the same way again after this enlightening look at some of our favorites at Rockwoods. (Reservations begin April 23.)

15 Discovery Hike

Saturday 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) The hiking trails are one of Rockwoods’ most popular attractions. Join us for a discovery tour on a woodland trail as we go in search of all kinds of natural wonders. An hour and a half of exploration is never enough! (Reservations begin May 7.)

22 White-tailed Deer: Beauty or Beast?

Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Whitetailed deer are woodland animals at Rockwoods, and their paths can be seen leading from the woods through the fields. Join us as we discover what challenges are involved in keeping a balance between the white-tailed deer and other woodland species. In addition, we will create a journal that will help us understand the ecological impacts of deer at Rockwoods. (Reservations begin May 7.)



22 Scout Discovery Table: Bird ID / Flyways

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Scouts) Birds are amazing and beautiful creatures that alert us to changes in the environment. Discover the “best of the birds” ... from the function behind flight: life and lore; adaptations and abilities. Learn the incredible secrets of bird behavior and wing your way towards understanding birds. **Wolves:** Birds (Elective 13d); **Webelos:** Outdoor Group: Naturalist #3, #5; **Juniors:** Let’s Get Outdoors: Wildlife #3, #8. (All are welcome. No reservations necessary.)

Rockwoods Volunteer Milestones

Glenda Myers.....2000 hours
John Schroeder.....1000 hours

Meg Wilson.....750 hours
Joe Ritter.....500 hours

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

May 2004 Page 3

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

14 Welcoming the 2004 Corps of Discovery

Friday 3 p.m.

(All Ages) Be on hand to greet the 2004 Corps of Discovery as they enter into the waters of the Missouri River. Spotting scopes will be set up at the confluence viewing platform to watch this historic reenactment, but it is recommended that you bring your own binoculars. **Date and time are approximate, weather and river levels may delay the launching.** (No reservations necessary.)

22 Lewis & Clark: Survivors

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 7-12) Lewis & Clark faced many hardships and challenges on their journey up the Missouri River. Do you have what it takes to survive such a journey? You will need many skills, including identifying animal tracks and habitats, drawing a map, catching fish and hunting for food, and communicating with the native people. Find out if you have what it takes to survive in a game of questions and “challenges” about Lewis & Clark’s journey. (Reservations begin May 6.)



29 Discovering the Treasure

Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 12 & up) Join us for a leisurely bike ride through Columbia Bottom to discover the many treasures it has to offer. Participants will learn about the mosaic of floodplain habitats that make up Columbia Bottom. To participate, you must be able to bike 5 miles on a level paved road plus another 5 miles on the levee trail. Bike helmets are required for this program. (Reservations begin May 14.)

Under Construction!



Keep
watching
for more
programs!

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

1 Scout Discovery Table:
Triple Try-Its

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) **Brownies** can complete portions of What’s Out There?, Animals #3 and #5, Eco-Explorer #1 and Outdoor Adventurer #5. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Check it out! (No reservations necessary.)

3 Spring Hiking at Powder Valley
Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Let’s hike the Broken Ridge Trail to see birds, wildflowers and trees. (Reservations begin April 19.)

5 A Spring Birding Festival
Wednesday 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Spring has arrived with more migrant songbirds pouring in each day! The beauty of these tiny travelers has made bird watching one of the fastest-growing outdoor activities in America today. Join us for this special program, which is the ninth program by the St. Louis Audubon Society at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center.

See a video with close-up views and sounds of many beautiful birds. We’ll share tips on features to observe when identifying birds. Several handouts will be available.

We’ll let you know the best locations nearby to find these colorful birds as well as identify the best bird books for getting started. Upcoming bird walks escorted by experienced Audubon leaders will be announced. (No reservations necessary.)

9 Special Mother’s Day Event
John Nilsen in Concert
Sunday 2 p.m.
(Ages 12 & up) Bring your favorite mom to a performance by nationally renowned pianist John Nilsen. His original music is inspired by family and outdoor activities. More about John can be seen on his website: www.MagicWing.com. (Reservations begin April 20.)

12 Babes in the Woods
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
(Ages Birth to 3) To introduce nature through the varying senses to the very young by a stroller walk. (Reservations begin April 28.)

17 May Hike at Powder Valley
Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) An opportunity to seek out what birds, wildflowers and trees we may find. (Reservations begin May 3.)

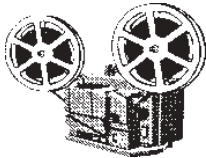
19 HOMESCHOOL
Introduction to Orienteering
Wednesday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-12) Don’t lose your way in the woods. Learn how to use a compass to find your way. We’ll try our new skills out on the trail. Equipment will be provided. Please wear closed-toe shoes and dress for a hike in the woods. (Reservations begin May 5.)

20 Rocking Chair Storytime
Thursday 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
(Families) Come enjoy a fun-packed time of hearing stories, using puppets and experiencing surprises galore! (No reservations necessary.)

23 Lewis and Clark:
Geological Trailblazers
Sunday Noon – 1 p.m.
(Ages 12 & up) Discuss the geological observations made by Lewis and Clark and how they contributed to subsequent surveys of the West. (Reservations begin May 7.)

Powder Valley
Conservation Nature Center
Nature Films

Shown in Auditorium - Free of Charge - Groups Welcome!
Children’s films 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
All Ages films 11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
Films are subject to change
No Reservations Necessary



DIRT-Y FUN & TALKIN’ TRASH

Sunday, May 2
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

In honor of Earth Day and to kick off No MOre Trash week, we’re going to get dirty and trashy! Come join us as we explore the importance of something as seemingly humble as dirt — you might prefer “soil” — through songs, crafts, activities and games. Visit our No MOre Trash Discovery Table (which will also be set up on May 1 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.). Learn what you can do to prevent litter. Recite the litter pledge and take home stickers, posters, window clings and other goodies!

No reservations necessary.



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Saturday, May 8
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Spring has sprung! Days are getting longer and warmer. Spring wildflowers are emerging. Trees are leafing out. And...**the birds are back!** Songbirds, hawks, shorebirds, waterfowl — they’ve made the long trip back after over-wintering in Central or South America. Come celebrate their return as Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center and the St. Louis Audubon Society present International Migratory Bird Day.

Learn about bird ID. Go bird watching. Hone your binocular skills in a relay race. Make “pretend” binoculars. Plant your own bird food. Stop by our discovery tables and exhibits for more about bird identification, adaptations and migration. Be one of the first 35 to attend and get a milk carton bird feeder complete with seed!

No reservations necessary.

Resident Artisan

Katherine Dickerson
Native American Artist
Demonstration

Saturday, May 15
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Nature Center Lower Level



This year we commemorate the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition. President Thomas Jefferson instructed Lewis and Clark to find “the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent, for the purposes of commerce” and to “notice” the people and learn the “language, traditions and monuments” of Native Americans.

The Corps encountered nearly 40 Native American tribes in the course of their journey to the Pacific Ocean. In the spirit of the Corps of Discovery commemoration, Powder Valley welcomes Katherine Dickerson, Native American Artist. A member of the Kiowa Indian tribe, Dickerson learned native crafts that were handed down from her grandfather. Dickerson will share some of the history, legends and folklore of the Native Americans while she demonstrates beading techniques, footwear techniques and craftwork of the 1800s. Don’t miss this opportunity to experience living history.

No reservations necessary.

May Hallway Exhibit
Student Art Show

View Missouri’s plants and animals through the eyes of young artists as area teachers show off their students’ art. The selected works are on display during regular Nature Center hours May 1 through May 31. Don’s miss this opportunity to experience the art of future nature artisans.



Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Janyce Beyer.....	3100 hours	Shirley Pearlstone.....	800 hours	Bernadette Sieving.....	400 hours
Ginny Burmeister.....	1600 hours	Kris Shannon.....	600 hours	Lee Roy Halbeck.....	100 hours
Julie Hoijarvi.....	500 hours				